

STABILIZED VIRAL ENVELOPE PROTEINS AND USES THEREOF**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5 This invention provides an isolated nucleic acid which  
comprises a nucleotide segment having a sequence encoding  
a viral envelope protein comprising a viral surface  
protein and a corresponding viral transmembrane protein  
wherein the viral envelope protein contains one or more  
mutations in amino acid sequence that enhance the  
stability of the complex formed between the viral surface  
10 protein and transmembrane protein. This invention also  
provides a viral envelope protein comprising a viral  
surface protein and a corresponding viral transmembrane  
protein wherein the viral envelope protein contains one  
or more mutations in amino acid sequence that enhance the  
15 stability of the complex formed between the viral surface  
protein and transmembrane protein. This invention further  
provides methods of treating HIV-1 infection.

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